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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/007,671	12/10/2001	Toyomichi Yamada	00990083AA	9873

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EXAMINER

SKED, MATTHEW J

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2626

DATE MAILED: 04/18/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/007,671

Applicant(s)

YAMADA ET AL.

Examiner

Matthew J. Sked

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 21 February 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-17 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-17 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 2/16/06 and 2/21/06 has been entered.

Response to Amendment

2. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-12 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection, necessitated by amendment.
3. Claims 13-17 have been newly added.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

4. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

5. Claim 16 recites the limitation "said options" in the first line. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim. Claim 14 does not mention any "options". For the purposes of examination it will be assumed that claim 16 should depend upon claim 15.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

6. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

7. Claims 1-8, 11 and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Chanod et al. (U.S. Pat. 6,622,123) in view of Candelore (U.S. Pat. Pub. 2002/0111791A1), cited in the previous Office Action, and taken in further view of Hugentobler (U.S. Pat. 5,576,953).

As per claim 1, Chanod teaches a multilingual conversation assist system, for assisting a conversation between users of a plurality of languages, comprising:

a first control means prompting a user to select a conversational situation (user may browse through the thematic hierarchy to choose a situation hence the listing of the themes would be a prompt, col. 7, lines 20-37 and col. 11, lines 20-30); and

a database storing common conceptual information about at least two languages available for multilingual conversations and a plurality of subdatabases, one subdatabase for each of said at least two languages storing data available to a conversation, each of said subdatabases including an area for storing data for setting a conversational situation, a control section for storing a control program for said control means for reading the setting data of the conversation situation and displaying language units corresponding to the selected conversation situation, and an area for storing language units that are used for said at least two languages (multilingual phrasebook

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stores multilingual sentences for conversational situations, these sentences are arranged in a thematic hierarchy according to topic (subdatabase), in which the topic is chosen by the user hence a means to read this input would be inherent, col. 7, lines 20-55);

wherein displaying of a language unit is made effective using multimedia so a language unit is presented in a first language and audio output corresponding to the language unit presented in the second language (source expression output by means of visual and audio output, this would suggest the translated expression would be output by audio output as well, col. 11, lines 31-35 and 55-64).

Chanod does not teach each language unit is represented by a graphic image corresponding to the particular language unit.

Candelore teaches a multilingual conversational assistant that uses multimedia outputting means to output text, pictures and audio in response to a translation (paragraphs 40-44).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to modify the system of Chanod to represent the language unit by a graphic image as taught by Candelore because it would further enable the user to convey his intent in the second language.

Neither Chanod nor Candelore teaches outputting a phonetic expression of said language unit in a second language.

Hugentobler teaches a portable electronic translation device that displays the phonetic information of a translation (Fig. 1 and col. 3, lines 59-64).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to modify the system of Chanod and Candelore to output a phonetic expression of said language unit in a second language as taught by Hugentobler because it would give the user the means to correctly pronounce the translation when spoken.

8. As per claim 2, Chanod teaches the first means for setting the conversational situation displays predetermined options and has a structure for repeating a step one of said options a plural number of times (topic selected from a plurality of topics offered and because there are subtopics for each topic an option would be selected a plural amount of times, col. 7, lines 20-37).

9. As per claim 3, Chanod teaches the language units are stored as a database and wherein the language units corresponding to the set conversational situation are searched for and displayed (phrasebook searched by topic keyword, col. 7, lines 20-37).

10. As per claim 4, Chanod teaches wherein options are displayed by using said language units stored in said database or a part thereof (phrasebook may be searched by a list of presented keywords which would be a part of the sentences found, col. 7, lines 20-37).

11. As per claim 5, Chanod teaches wherein options over a plurality of stages for setting said conversational situation are stored in a first area of said database while said language units are stored in a second area of said database, and wherein one of said options is successively selected from said first area of said database to search and to display next-stage options in accordance with the selected option until one of final stage

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options is selected, and the language unit that corresponds to said selected option is searched from said second area of said database to be displayed (stores multiple topics each with subtopics hence multiple stages wherein the final subtopic selected is used to search for sentences from the phrasebook, col. 7, lines 20-37).

12. As per claim 6, Chanod teaches a plurality of language units are selected in a step of selecting options in a plurality of stages and wherein said selected plurality of language units are combined together and displayed (selects topic and subtopics hence a plurality of language units are selected and the results displayed would match the topic and subtopics chosen, col. 7, lines 20-37).

13. As per claim 7, Chanod teaches said selected plurality of language units are combined and displayed in compliance with a syntax rule previously stored in said second area of said database (returned sentences are translated and displayed according to a syntactic structure, col. 7, lines 38-55 and col. 8, lines 41-47).

14. As per claim 8, Chanod teaches said language unite includes a character expression in a first language (returns sample sentences that would be in the same language to be translated, col. 7, lines 20-37).

15. As per claim 11, Chanod teaches a storage medium in which said database is previously stored (phrasebook of source expressions is saved in memory on device, col. 6, lines 45-50).

16. As per claim 12, Chanod teaches a portable device provided with a storage unit in which said database is previously stored (Fig. 3, elements 320-340).

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17. As per claim 13, Chanod teaches including a second-stage option table and a second-stage query which includes a language unit connection field of the second-stage option table to indicate whether or not a next language unit is present (user selects sample sentences subsequent to browsing through the thematic hierarchy hence it would inherently have the data needed to interpret the user's choosing and would inherently indicate if a language unit is not present (e.g. would do nothing), col. 7, lines 20-55).

18. As per claim 14, Chanod teaches a multilingual conversation assist system, for assisting a conversation between users of a plurality of languages, comprising:

a first control means prompting a user to select a conversational situation (user may browse through the thematic hierarchy to choose a situation hence the listing of the themes would be a prompt, col. 7, lines 20-37 and col. 11, lines 20-30);

a database storing common conceptual information about at least two languages available for multilingual conversations and a plurality of subdatabases, one subdatabase for each of said at least two languages storing data available to a conversation, each of said subdatabases including an area for storing data for setting a conversational situation, a control section for storing a control program for said control means for reading the setting data of the conversation situation and displaying language units corresponding to the selected conversation situation, and an area for storing language units that are used for said at least two languages (multilingual phrasebook stores multilingual sentences for conversational situations, these sentences are arranged in a thematic hierarchy according to topic (subdatabase), in which the topic is

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chosen by the user hence a means to read this input would be inherent, col. 7, lines 20-55); and

including a second-stage option table and a second-stage query which includes a language unit connection field of the second-stage option table to indicate whether or not a next language unit is present (user selects sample sentences subsequent to browsing through the thematic hierarchy hence it would inherently have the data needed to interpret the user's choosing and would inherently indicate if a language unit is not present (e.g. would do nothing), col. 7, lines 20-55);

wherein displaying of a language unit is made effective using multimedia so a language unit is presented in a first language and audio output corresponding to the language unit presented in the second language (source expression output by means of visual and audio output, this would suggest the translated expression would be output by audio output as well, col. 11, lines 31-35 and 55-64).

Chanod does not teach each language unit is represented by a graphic image corresponding to the particular language unit.

Candelore teaches a multilingual conversational assistant that uses multimedia outputting means to output text, pictures and audio in response to a translation (paragraphs 40-44).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to modify the system of Chanod to represent the language unit by a graphic image as taught by Candelore because it would further enable the user to convey his intent in the second language.

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Neither Chanod nor Candelore teaches outputting a phonetic expression of said language unit in a second language.

Hugentobler teaches a portable electronic translation device that displays the phonetic information of a translation (Fig. 1 and col. 3, lines 59-64).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to modify the system of Chanod and Candelore to output a phonetic expression of said language unit in a second language as taught by Hugentobler because it would give the user the means to correctly pronounce the translation when spoken.

19. As per claim 15, Chanod teaches wherein said control means, in response to setting a conversational situation, controls said display means to display predetermined options (list of possible source expressions output to the user, col. 11, lines 21-30).

20. As per claim 16, Chanod teaches wherein said options are displayed by using said language units stored in said database (lists the expressions, col. 11, lines 21-30).

21. As per claim 17, Chanod teaches wherein options over a plurality of stages for setting said conversational situation are stored in a first area of a subdatabase while said language units are stored in a second area of said database, and wherein one of said options is successively selected from said first area of said subdatabase to search and to display next-stage options in accordance with the selected option until one of final stage options is selected, and the language unit that corresponds to said selected options searched from said second area of said subdatabase to be displayed (conversation themes stored in the theme hierarchy while the source expressions are

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stored under these headings, the user browses the hierarchy until a sentence is selected and then displayed, col. 7, lines 20-55 and col. 11, lines 20-35).

22. Claims 9 and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Chanod in view of Candelore and taken in further view of Hugentobler and Applicant's admitted prior art.

Chanod teaches a wireless communication device (Fig. 3, elements 320-340).

Chanod, Candelore and Hugentobler do not specifically teach all or part of said database is downloaded by means of communication with a server that stores the database.

Applicant's admitted prior art teaches that downloading databases from a server is notoriously well known in the art.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to modify the system of Chanod, Candelore and Hugentobler to download the database from a server because it would save memory on the communication device.

Conclusion

23. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Appleby (U.S. Pat. 200/0059056A1) teaches a translation system with a multimedia output of the translation.


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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Matthew J. Sked whose telephone number is (571) 272-7627. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri (8:00 am - 4:30 pm).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Hudspeth can be reached on (571) 272-7843. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

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4/10/06



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